

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 01756 090925Z

21

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ST-01 SCCT-01 /020 W

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R 090737Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4861

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, ASUP, IT

SUBJECT: TERRORISM RISKS WITH U.S. VEHICLES

REF MILAN 1297, MILAN 1442, MILAN 1435, ROME 9362, STATE 140305.

1. PURSUANT TO REFTELS, WE WISH TO HIGHLIGHT ADVANTAGES IN ADOPTING PROGRAM OF PURCHASE AND USE OF LOCALLY PROCURED VEHICLES.

2. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE, FROM SECURITY VIEWPOINT, IS FACT THAT LOCALLY PURCHASED VEHICLES WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS CONSPI- CUOUS, PROVIDING LESS OBVIOUS TARGET FOR TERRORISTS OR CRIMINALS. HIGH DEGREE OF VISIBILITY OF AMERICAN CARS IS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THEIR SIZE. THIS SIZE CREATES ADDITIONAL PROBLEM OF MANEUVERABILITY, AS IN MILAN MANY STREETS ARE NARROW WITH NUMEROUS CURVES. THIS MAKES EVEN NORMAL DRIVING DIFFICULT. USE OF EVASIVE DRIVING TECH- Niques WITH AMERICAN CARS TO AVOID TERRORIST THREATS ARE ALMOST OUT OF QUESTION.

3. IN ADDITION TO ENHANCING SECURITY, EUROPEAN VEHICLES OFFER NUMEROUS PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE LOWER, AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY FEWER AS FACILITIES FOR MAINTAINING U.S. VEHICLES ARE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTANT. IN ADDITION, THE COST OF SHIPPING THE VEHICLE TO POST WOULD BE AVOIDED, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE ORIGINAL INVESTMENT RECOUPED ON DISPOSITION OF THE VEHICLE WOULD

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BE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER. WRIGHT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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